

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:JCHAMBERLAIN:JC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: MEDIA MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JOANNE OMANG BY-LINER, WASHINGTON POST, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, HEADED "PANAMANIAN HITS ZONIANS AS RACISTS."
2. PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AQUILINO BOYD TODAY ACCUSED AMERICANS IN THE CANAL ZONE OF HAVING "THE MENTALITY OF THE WHITES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA" IN MAINTAINING THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD RETAIN CONTROL OF THE CANAL.
3. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD MIGHT BE STALLING CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS HOPING THAT AN EXPLOSIVE INCIDENT HERE COULD WORK TO HIS ADVANTAGE IN THE U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN.
4. BRINGING PUBLIC CHARGES OF RACISM INTO THE ONGOING DISPUTE, BOYD SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER SHOULD OFFER TO RELOCATE THE FAMILIES OF 3,500 AMERICAN EMPLOYEES HERE IN A SIMILAR FASHION TO

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HIS REPORTED PLANS TO PROVIDE FOR RELOCATING WHITES IN

RHODESIA. A BRITISH-AMERICAN PROPOSAL WOULD PROVIDE A \$2 BILLION FUND TO COMPENSATE RHODESIAN WHITES DURING THE COLONY'S TRANSITION TO BLACK RULE.

5. "THE ZONIANS WANT TO INTERRUPT THE NEGOTIATIONS SINCE THEY BELIEVE IN MINORITY RIGHTS OVER THE ZONE," HE SAID. "THEY HAVE THE MENTALITY OF THE WHITES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE UNITED STATES OUGHT TO END DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM HERE IN WORK, HOUSING, IN SCHOOLS AND THE HOSPITALS, ALL SEGREGATED BY RACE ... THEY'VE BEEN CORRECTING THE SITUATION FOR 70 YEARS BUT IT IS ALWAYS THE SAME DOG WITH A DIFFERENT COLLAR."

6. BOYD SPOKE AFTER 10 DAYS OF STUDENT UNREST AND RIOTING HERE THAT FOLLOWED A THREE CENT RISE IN THE COST OF RICE. THE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS THAT THE CANAL-ZONE AMERICANS, OR ZONIANS, TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ECONOMIC DISCONTENT TO STIR UP THE STUDENTS IN AN EFFORT TO "DESTABILIZE" THE EIGHT-YEAR-OLD GOVERNMENT OF POPULIST STRONGMAN GEN. OMAR TORRIJOS.

7. U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. JORDEN YESTERDAY SENT A FORMAL NOTE REJECTING PANAMA'S ALLEGATIONS THAT THREE PERSONS ARRESTED DURING LAST WEEK'S RIOT WERE U.S. INTEL-LIGENCE AGENTS. BOYD TODAY AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO PROOF OF ANY GOVERNMENT LINK, BUT ADDED, "IT IS CERTAIN THAT THEY WERE AT THE SCENE AND WERE AGITATING" THE STUDENTS.

8. BOYD DENIED SPECULATION FROM MANY QUARTERS THAT TORRIJOS' RULE IS WEAKENING UNDER GROWING ECONOMIC PRESSURE AND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF SPREADING GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION. ACCORDING TO THIS VIEW, THE EXTREME LEFTIST STUDENTS WHO SPEARHEADED LAST WEEK'S DISTURBANCES HAVE LOST FAITH IN TORRIJOS' PROMISES OF POPULAR REFORM.

9. BOYD SAID THE COUNTRY'S 1.5 MILLION PERSONS ARE UNITED IN VIEWING CONTROL OVER THE CANAL AS THE NO. ONE PRIORITY FOR FUTURE GROWTH. HE HINTED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS AND "MANIFESTATIONS OF POPULAR SUPPORT" FOR THAT VIEW.
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10. "IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF FORD MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR A MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT TO ALLOW HIM TO EXHIBIT HIS MACHISMO ... THAT MIGHT PERMIT HIM TO CAPTURE THE SUPPORT HE WILL NEED" TO BE REELECTED BOYD SAID.

11. U.S. POLLS SHOWED A RISE IN MR. FORD'S POPULARITY AFTER HE RESPONDED WITH A MASSIVE SHOW OF STRENGTH TO THE

TEMPORARY CAPTURE BY CAMBODIAN FORCES OF THE U.S. VESSEL MAYAGUEZ OFF CAMBODIA A YEAR AGO. "THE ZONIANS WOULD BE

VERY CONTENT IF PANAMA COULD BECOME THE GUINEA PIG FOR FORD, TO SHOW HE IS MACHO," OR AGGRESSIVELY MALE, BOYD SAID. "THE PRETEXT WOULD BE TO PROTECT THE ZONIANS FROM THE PANAMANIAN ... BUT THAT COULD BOOMERANG ON HIM."

12. BOYD SAID THE ONLY EVIDENCE HE HAD FOR THIS SPECULATION WAS THE FACT THAT TALKS ON THE NEW TREATY HAD NOT RESUMED AS PANAMA EXPECTED "AFTER RONALD REAGAN WAS DEAD AND BURIED" AT THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION IN AUGUST.

13. THE FORMER CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR OPPOSED RENEGOTIATING THE 1903 TREATY, MAKING IT A PRIMARY CAMPAIGN ISSUE, AND SEVERAL INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS HERE SAID PRIVATELY THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD APPARENTLY DECIDED NOT TO ALIENATE REAGAN SUPPORTERS BY BRINGING UP THE CANAL ISSUE AGAIN BEFORE THE ELECTION.

14. PANAMA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, GONZALEZ REVILLA, MET SEPT. 8 WITH SPECIAL U.S. AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER IN NEW YORK TO ASK THAT TALK BE RESUMED. "IT'S IMPORTANT THAT TALKS CONTINUE NOW," BOYD SAID. "IF FORD SHOULD LOSE, AND IT LOOKS POSSIBLE, THEN HE WOULD BE A LAME DUCK AND (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE JIMMY) CARTER WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TALK EITHER UNTIL NEXT SPRING. WE CANNOT DELAY THAT LONG."

15. ASKED ABOUT RACISM IN THE CANAL ZONE, AL BALDWIN OF THE PANAMA CANAL CO. INFORMATION OFFICE REJECTED THE CHARGE, SAYING HOUSING WAS BEING INTEGRATED AND SCHOOLS UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE TO BE COMBINED GRADUALLY BEGINNING THIS YEAR. HE LISTED A VARIETY OF PANAMANIAN-AMERICAN CLUBS AND CIVIC GROUPS AND NOTED THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN AN INCIDENT OF RACIAL VIOLENCE IN THE ZONE. ZONIANS HAVE LIVED IN PANAMA FOR GENERATIONS IN SOME CASES, HE ADDED, AND WERE WIDELY INTERMARRIED WITH PANAMANIAN. HIS OWN WIFE IS PANAMANIAN AND A SECOND COUSIN TO BOYD, HE SAID, WHILE HIS TWO ELDEST SONS WERE MARRIED TO OTHER RELATIVES OF BOYD'S. "HOW MUCH CLOSER CAN YOU GET?" (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ALLEGATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE236664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCHAMBERLAIN:JC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760360-0113
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760926/aaaaavwt.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <07 DEC 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, SHUM, US, PN, PQ, WASHINGTON POST, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (OMANG, JOANNE), (BOYD GUARDIA, AQUILINO EDGARDO)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006